

CONTRIBUTORS

JAIME GROSS

The writer Jaime Gross lives in the Mission District of San Francisco, where marijuana is no longer taboo. "If a cop saw someone smoking a joint outside of a cafe and someone riding a bike on the sidewalk, he'd go after the guy on the bike," she says. Still,

Gross was surprised to happen upon "a girl who looked like she could work at Banana Republic" giving a tutorial on a volcano vaporizer. That's business as usual at Sparc, a sleek medical-marijuana dispensary designed by Sand Studios ("Splendor in the Grass," Page 50). A former editor at Travel & Leisure, Gross recently joined the staff of Dwell, the Bay Area design magazine. "I have an eye for things," she says, "but a flea-market budget."

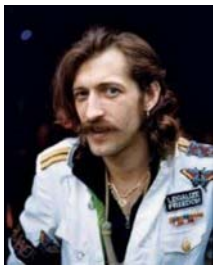
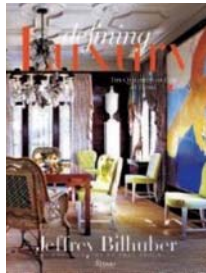


ALEXANDRA LANGE

For "The Zootopian" (Page 46), Alexandra Lange made a play date with the German designer Renate Müller, who for decades has sewn jute and leather into toy animals. Lange's own 3-year-old son enjoys Matchbox cars and a secondhand Fisher Price Airport (far left). "I take issue with a \$250 Mies van der Rohe-inspired dollhouse," she says. Lange, who lives in Brooklyn, has a Ph.D. in architectural history from New York University, where she specialized in midcentury office design and architecture. (She says "Mad Men" is like her dissertation brought to life.) Her new book with Jane Thompson, "Design Research: The Store That Brought Modern Living to American Homes," is featured on Page 24.

JUDITH NASATIR

On a "very, very hot New York day" some years ago, the writer Judith Nasatir was shopping for furniture in SoHo when she sought refuge in Federico de Vera's Crosby Street outpost. "I remember vividly walking up the stairs, going into this dark space and feeling like I'd fallen through the looking glass." In "Chasing Beauty" (Page 30), she returns to de Vera's "cabinet of curiosities." Nasatir grew up in Toledo, Ohio, and went to Bryn Mawr, where she studied classics ("I'm a huge Aeschylus fan") but hung out with the design geeks. A former editor at Interior Design magazine, she is now writing books with the decorators Matthew Patrick Smyth and Jeffrey Bilhuber, whose "Defining Luxury" is at far right.



MONIKA HÖFLER

Monika Höfler's photo work has taken her from the Mongolian steppe to the banks of the Danube, from Daniel Brühl's hotel room to the mischievous mustache of the Gogol Bordello frontman Eugene Hütz (far left). Based in Munich, Höfler shoots widely for magazines like Neon and the German newsweekly Stern. Her work includes serious reportage, like her recent "Town of Suicide" series, for which she visited Batman, Turkey, where women have killed themselves to avoid forced marriages. In this issue, she zoomed in on a happier place, Renate Müller's animal toy land ("The Zootopian," Page 46). **STEPHEN HEYMAN**

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